GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1020
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Fire Advisory Council headed by the Director General, Civil Defence, has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition;

(c) whether the said Council holds regular meetings to discuss the problems concerning with the fire services of the States in order to make recommendations thereon;

(d) if so, the details of the meetings held during each of the last three years, till date alongwith the issues raised and recommendations made therein;

(e) whether the Government is aware that the funds allocated to the State Governments for modernisation of the fire services are not utilised by them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against such States, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): & (b): A Standing Fire Advisory Council was set up in 1956 to examine and make recommendations regarding the technical matters relating to Fire. This Council is headed by the Director General of Civil Defence with Heads of Fire Services of States/U.Ts/Central Ministries/Departments, Director, National Fire Service College, Nagpur and a representative of the Bureau of Indian Standards as its Members. Fire Advisor to the Government of India is the Member Secretary of the Council.

(c) & (d): The Standing Fire Advisory Council holds regular meetings. The 29th, 30th and 31st meetings of the Council were held on 15th February 2003, 10th & 11th December 2003 and 4th & 5th August 2005 respectively. The following main issues were raised and discussed during these meetings:-

(i) Uniform Fire Service Acts in the States/U.Ts;

(ii) Conferment of rank of DG to Heads of Fire Services;

(iii) Organizational and command structure for disaster response;

(iv) Adoption of National Building Code by the States/U.Ts;

(v) Modernization of Fire Services;

(vi) Standard specifications for specialized Fire Equipments;

(vii) Exemption from custom duty on import of fire equipments;

(viii) Upgradation of regional Fire Training Centers and Fire Fighting Training to Government/Public Sector Employees;

(ix) Mass public awareness campaigns in States/UTs; and

(x) Utilization of grants recommended by the Finance Commission

(e) & (f): The 10th and 11th Finance Commissions recommended Upgradation and Special Problem Grants to the States for Fire Services. According to the details of utilization upto 31.3.2005, the position regarding utilization of the Grant of Rs.201 crore recommended by 11th Finance Commission is as follows:-

(Rs. in crore) Details of utilization of funds under the 11th Finance Commission

Schemes recommended by the State Level Empowered Committees	197.28
Funds released	162.07
Funds utilized	147.53

States have been periodically reminded to ensure timely and optimum utilization of funds available under the Finance Commission Grants.